

## Michigan Mirror

(Continued from Page Two)

wheel gets the oil, the newspaper editors of Michigan attending the 75th convention of the Michigan Press association at Michigan State College, were vocal in their insistence that "something should be done."

They wanted to assist the farmer.

So here is one of many news stories which you may read during the coming months of 1943. Hold on!

Before we get too far into the problem, consider with us first the basic matter of food as a military necessity.

We will quote dirt farmer Claude Wickard, the Hoosier-born secre-

tary of agriculture from his annual report to President Roosevelt on Jan. 24:

"Military and lend-lease needs for food will be HALF again as great as they were in 1942; they will take ONE-FIFTH of our total food production."

"More than a FOURTH of our meat, for instance, a THIRD of our egg and nearly a THIRD of our canned vegetables will have military and lend-lease destination."

Next, the military use of food as an effective weapon to save lives.

Lives of American boys were saved in Africa—and these lads included sons of Michigan fathers and mothers—because American authorities could promise and deliver food to natives who were on the verge of starvation.

This fact was revealed recently by the Office of War Information at Washington. In fact, it came from one of the OWI executives who flew to Africa to get the facts. Food is a powerful life-saving weapon in total war. Think that over!

Then there is the commonplace factor of weather. You can produce guns and shells whether the sun shines or not. But you can't produce corn and beans unless the weather is suitable.

Remember the wonderful growing season we had last summer? Of course you do. It was an important contribution to man's determination to produce bumper crops.

As for 1943, farmers are already worried. Unfavorable weather last fall prevented fall plowing in many instances, thus imposing further

handicaps on farmers who are already beset by a shortage of labor and equipment. Unfavorable weather next summer could easily bring tragic results.

Next, the shortage of labor. It is critical.

It was critical last fall before Uncle Sam woke up and issued a directive to "freeze" labor on the farms and to defer farm labor from military duty.

More farm laborers went into war plants to earn fantastic wages than were called by selective service boards for military duty. Now the table is turned. Men in war plants are not exempt from military duty, although men on farms are.

During 1942 the farms of America lost more than 1,500,000 operators—family workers and year-round hired workers—to non-farm

employment and to the armed forces. Sons of farmers are just as patriotic as other American lads; many of them volunteered for military service.

"All right," you may say, "I agree with all this but how about deferment of the farmers? Are the local boards deferring farm labor?"

Here is how farm labor is supposed to be deferred.

Each selective service board is asked to refer a farmer's questionnaire to the nearest "war board" of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This board, advisory only in function, is supposed to make recommendations to the selective service board as to the essentiality of the farmer.

If the draft board declines to defer the farmer, then the registrant

or his employer may make an appeal in writing. This appeal is referred by the local draft board to the regional appeal board of which Michigan has six.

If the regional appeal board upholds the local board in refusing deferment, an appeal may be sent to the state director at Lansing who may relay it to Washington where the President himself has final authority to decide on its merits.

We happen to know that the state headquarters at Lansing is sympathetic with the plight of the farmer. Officials here insist that no injustice has been done to their knowledge.

It all boils down to this: If the farmer is working full-time on the farm, the employer (or the farmer himself) has a patriotic duty to appeal any induction order by any local draft board to the highest authority. The farmer is an essential resident in this war, and don't let anyone tell you differently!

One final "if," however. Slackers are going to be drafted.

The signing of the legislature's time bill by Governor Harry P. Kelly has added a good 5 to 10 per cent to Michigan's prospective food output for 1943.

Why? Again because of the critical labor shortage which boys, women, high school students, and even children may have to pitch in and get the crops planted and harvested this year. Every hour will help.

Legislators are delighted over the time change. Here are two statements typical of legislative thinking:

Rep. Maurice Post of Rockford (Kent County): "This is the only satisfactory conclusion in view of all evidence presented. I feel both sides of the question have been thoroughly explored and fairly judged. I commend the governor for his leadership and the legislators for their determination to see this thing through in a proper manner, commending all for acting with dispatch."

Senator Don VanderWerf (Newago County): "It's over and everyone should be happy with the final determination of a highly controversial question. We all feel confidence that passage of the bill represents a question that followed the spirit as well as the letter of Governor Kelly's recommendation to the legislature. It is far better to have all available facts before final decision than to have acted impetuously and permit arguments to continue on."

More about the food problem will appear next week.

92-Year-Old Worker  
A 92-year-old citizen of Minonk, Ill. rolled up his sleeves and got in 17,000 pounds of scrap for the local scrap drive.

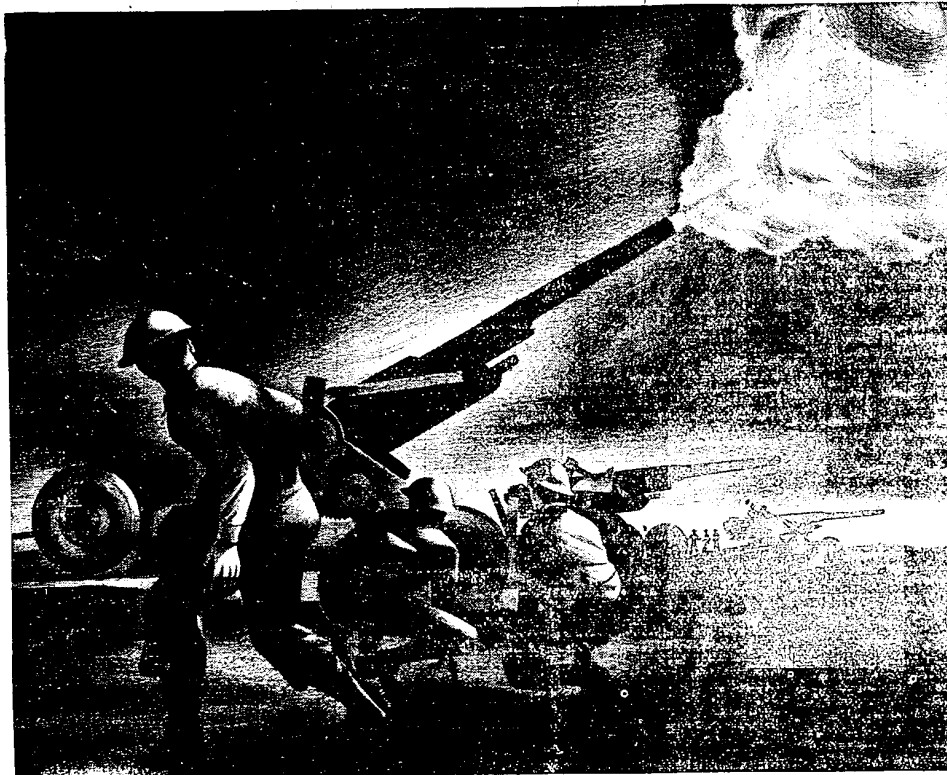
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## EAT, DRINK and BE MERRY...

Have a good time—you're not out behind a gun with the ground trembling beneath you.

You're not on a battleship with death screaming out of the sky all around you.

You're not in a trench, knee-deep in mud, with a thousand rifle and machine-gun barrels waiting for you.

Have a good time!

Order yourself a swell dinner tonight. A little turtle soup with sherry so start, then a filet mignon. And top it off with a coupe aux maroons.

Stock up on suits—there's going to be a shortage. Use all the tricks you can think of to get more than three gallons of gas a week for your car so you can go joy-riding on Sunday.

Gamble for a little more at bridge. Spend your money like water. Indulgence's here—being

it on faster. What do you care if the world goes to pot?

Eat, drink and be merry . . . and then try looking yourself in the face in a mirror.

Mister, this is your war as well as the soldiers' war. And if you think "life as usual" is doing your bit . . . if you think that "getting by" is awful patriotic . . . then take yourself into a dark room and think things over.

Ask yourself what you're doing to help win this fracas. And ask yourself what more you can do. And do it!

Above all, ask yourself if you're really buying enough War Bonds. And then buy more.

And if you can't find enough patriotic reasons to put 10% of your income into them, then try these very personal reasons on yourself:

► 1. War Bonds give you a systematic means of saving money. Systematically is the only way anybody ever saves.

► 2. War Bonds pay you 2.9% interest at maturity—higher interest than any other Government security being offered today.

► 3. War Bonds will provide you with a good backing for all the good things the post-war world will bring.

And if those reasons aren't enough, well—why do you want to stay in this country anyway?

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